

PART TWO.

Art Work

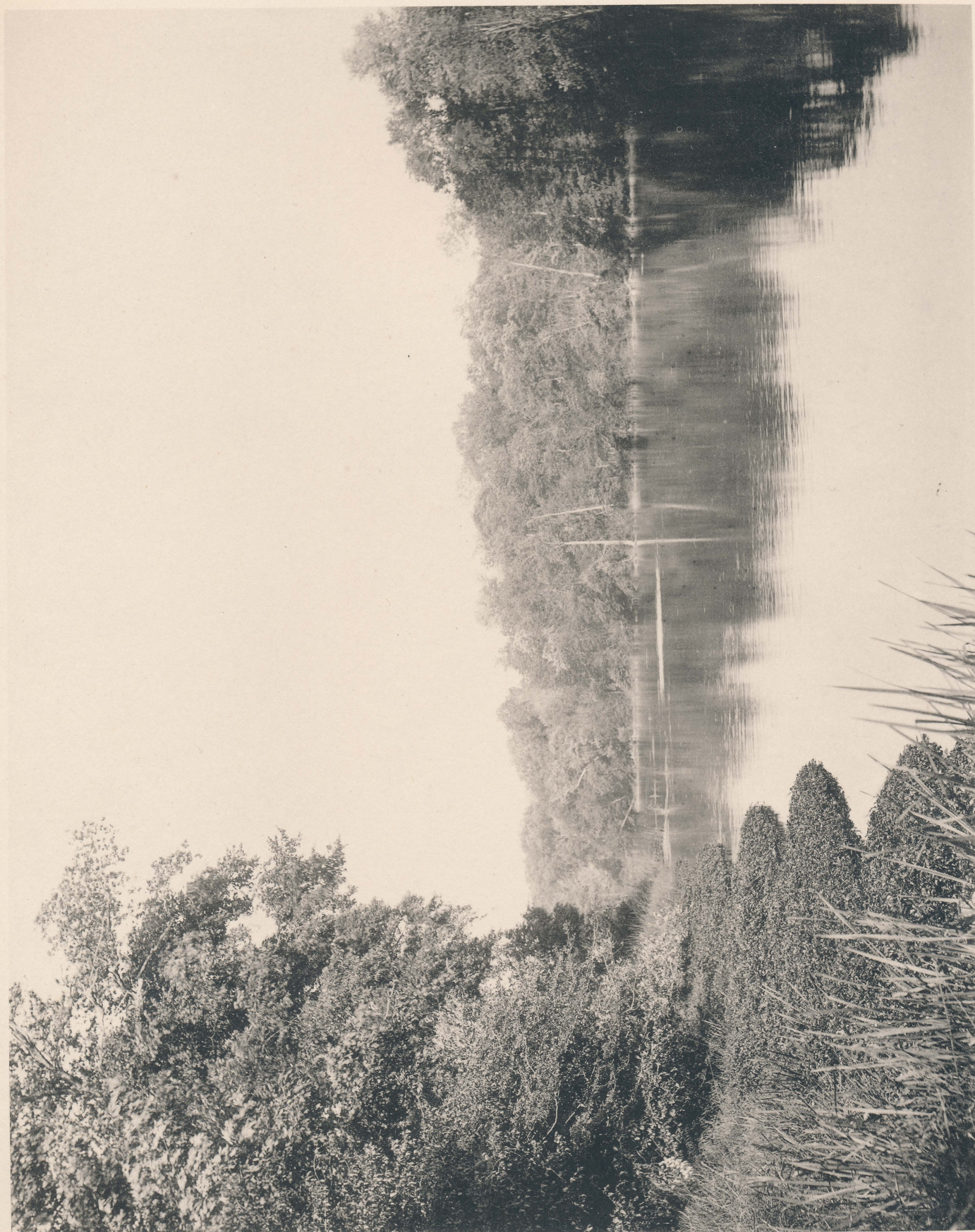
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CITY OF KALAMAZOO.

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VIEW ON THE KALAMAZOO RIVER.



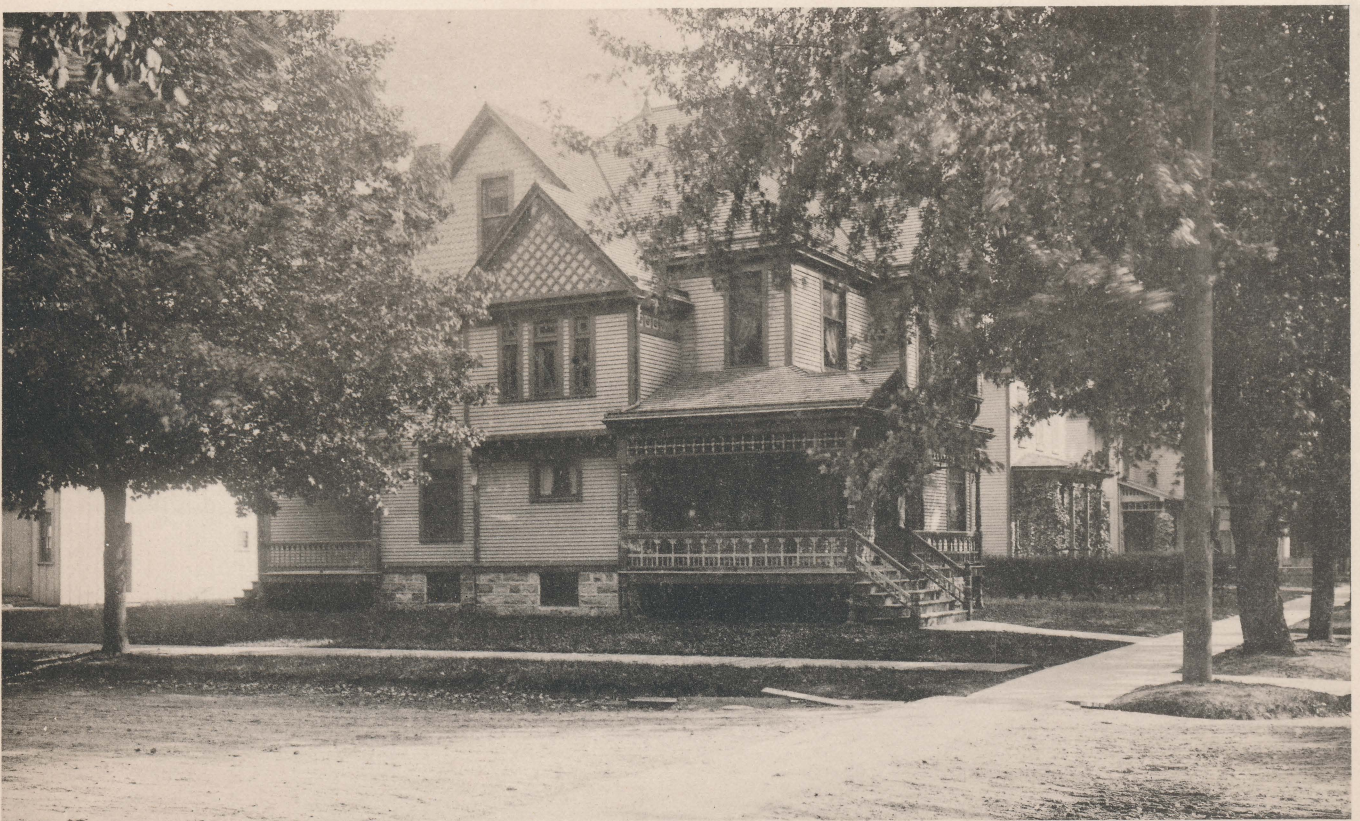
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VIEW ON WEST MAIN STREET.



RESIDENCE OF A. M. STEARNS.



SCENE ON THE KALAMAZOO RIVER.



SOUTH PARK.

775,000 bushels; potatoes, 105,000 bushels; clover seed, 5,000 bushels; hay, 50,000 tons; wool, 410,000 pounds. Average live stock on hand: horses, 10,800 head; cows, 8,500; sheep, 55,000; hogs, 15,000. The assessed valuation of real and personal property in 1892 was \$21,382,372. Estimated real wealth, upwards of \$32,000,000.

It is this solid and prosperous old County, with its rich soil and ample harvests, its varied and charming scenery, and its homogeneous and intelligent population of 40,000 souls, made up of the best blood and original stock of New York, New England and the Middle States, that constitutes the immediate back ground and support of the city. But the wider area comprised in the rich adjacent counties of St. Joseph, Cass, Berrien, Van Buren, Allegan and Barry, is all largely tributary to Kalamazoo and helps to support its prosperity.

HISTORY AND GROWTH OF THE CITY.

The beautiful and prosperous city of Kalamazoo is near the geographical center of the County, at the great bend of the Kalamazoo river, fifty miles from its mouth, and as before stated, midway between Detroit and Chicago, being 143 miles west from Detroit and 141 miles east from Chicago. Its altitude above Lake Michigan is 269 feet, and above sea level, 850 feet.

The liquid, euphonious and Greek-like name, Kalamazoo, comes, as before stated, from the Indian name for the river. This name strikes strangers as peculiar and has pointed many a newspaper quip or pleasantry and furnished no end to theatrical and minstrel jokes. It has the merit, at least, of being original and distinctive, and it rhymes well for the doggerel poets of the time. It is fortunate when a name so well-looking and fair in print, so liquid upon the tongue and so soft and pleasant to the ear, can be saved from the original Indian lore. It would have been well for Kalamazoo's enterprising rival on the East, if her name, Battle Creek, could have been softened into another Indian name, Wapokisco, as once proposed. One well known Michigan city has a name purely and distinctively Greek, Ypsilanti, after a modern Greek hero.

Only the merest outline of our city's past history can be given in such a work as this—so much space is required to give fitting account of its present institutions and business. As early as 1821 there was a French-Indian trading post located near the present entrance to Riverside Cemetery. But it was not till June, 1829, that the first white settler appeared in the person of Titus Bronson, a Connecticut Yankee, who that year built a log cabin on what is now Kalamazoo Avenue, near West Street. This first settler and pioneer, whose name is thus forever associated with the history of Kalamazoo, was a character, according to all early accounts. His biography cannot be given here, nor a history of his peculiarities or disappointments. Hanging on the walls of the city's present Council Chamber may be seen a picture, by Cooley, of this strange man, sitting at the entrance to his rude log cabin, in his shirt sleeves, and bare footed—a hard, suspicious, hermit-like look upon his face—a man who would now be called a "crank."

But Titus Bronson had, evidently, some push and shrewdness, for in February, 1831, the County-seat was established and named after him and the town, or village was called Bronson